



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Managing California's Working Lands*

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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## California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet

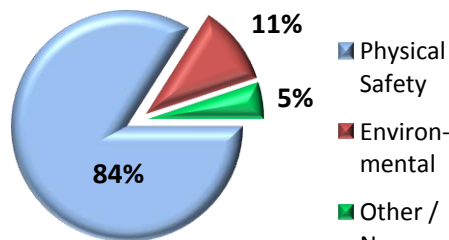
### The Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

• The Department of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU) implements a field program to inventory abandoned mines, provide a preliminary assessment of any hazards observed, and remediate hazards on public lands to preserve and protect human life and safety and any associated wildlife and cultural values (visit us at [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land)).

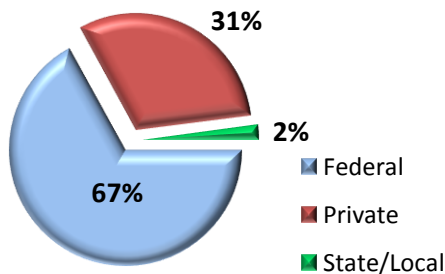
• Every year, someone is hurt or killed in an accident on abandoned mine lands. The AMLU's "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" message is part of a national public awareness campaign to warn children and adults about the dangers of exploring and playing near abandoned mines. Abandoned mines can also be sources of mercury contamination and other environmental hazards. To report an abandoned mine in California, call the AMLU hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE**.

• The AMLU estimates that approximately **47,000** abandoned mine sites containing **165,000** mine features\* exist statewide, **39,400** (84%) sites have physical hazards (more than **62,000** features are hazardous openings), and 67% of abandoned mine sites are on federal land.

**AML Hazard Type**



**AML Ownership**



\* A feature is a single human-made object or disturbance associated with mining, such as a shaft or adit (vertical or horizontal opening), tailings, machinery and facilities. A mine can be comprised of one or more features.

• The AMLU has completed site inventories and remediation projects throughout California (see map, page 2).

- ➔ **Inventories:** More than **3,000** sites and **29,000** features since 1997.
- ➔ **Remediations:** More than **650** hazardous features since 2001.

• The AMLU also convenes the AML Forum, a quarterly venue for the public and agencies to discuss abandoned mine issues (see [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land/amlu\\_forum.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/amlu_forum.htm)).



A vehicle is removed from an abandoned mine shaft, Imperial County (photos courtesy of Yuma Fire Department and Bureau of Land Management [BLM]).



Vehicle in abandoned mine shaft, Kern County (photo courtesy of BLM).



Photos before and after the AMLU helped to install a cupola over a 1,600-foot-deep abandoned mine next to Highway 395, Kern County (AMLU photo library).





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***CALIFORNIA ABANDONED MINES  
POTENTIAL, INVENTORIED AND REMEDIATED  
MINE FEATURE LOCATIONS***

- ★ Physical Hazard Remediations
- ▲ AML Program Inventoried Features
- USGS Mapped Mine Features\*

\* Based on USGS 7.5 minute topographical map mine symbols



0 50 100 150 200 Miles

Map produced by the Department of Conservation Abandoned Mine Lands Unit, April 2010.